

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

**Quick facts about Utah domestic violence fatalities that took place between the years 2000-2002.**

- Domestic violence-related deaths represented nearly one-third (31.7%) of all Utah homicides.
- More than half (64.2%) of the victims were killed by an intimate partner.
- Twelve (25.5%) of the suspects committed suicide after the homicide.
- Of those suspects prosecuted and sentenced, the majority (42.9%) were charged with a first-degree felony and received three-years-to-life sentences.

## 2000-2002 Utah Domestic Violence Fatality Data

### SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

#### WHAT

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. This includes violence between family members, roommates, and current or former partners.

#### WHO

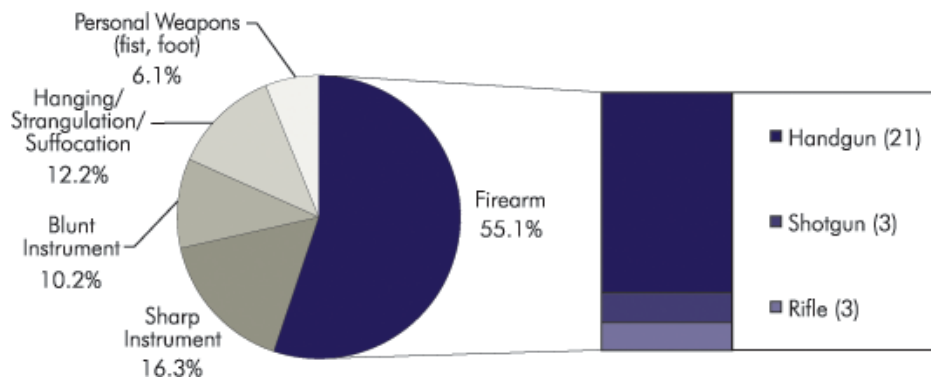
- On a per capita basis, Hispanics/Latinos are disproportionately affected by domestic violence.
- The highest per-population rate of domestic violence-related fatalities was seen in 45 to 54-year-olds.

#### WHERE

- The majority (83.7%) of victims were killed in their own homes.
- Tooele County had the highest rate of domestic violence homicide; (34.3 per 1,000,000) three times the state rate of 11.2.

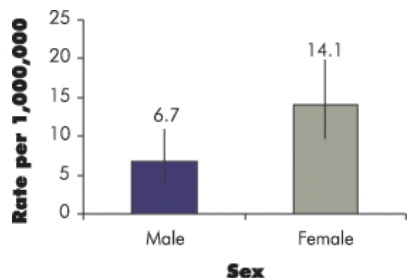
### Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Recommendations

- ◆ Encourage judges and prosecutors to review entire histories prior to sentencing defendants convicted of domestic violence offenses.
- ◆ Strengthen existing public education campaigns that focus on aiding victims of domestic and intimate partner violence.
- ◆ Educate law enforcement personnel on and emphasize further implementation of "child witnessing" domestic violence laws.
- ◆ Ensure that culturally responsive educational materials are widely available to all populations.

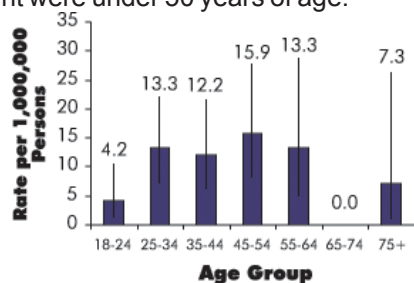


## Victim Demographics

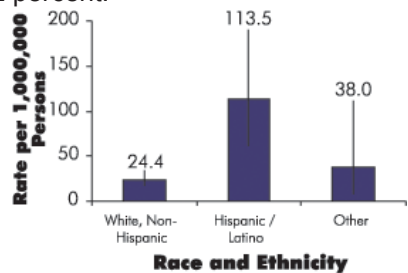
The rate for Utah victims was 1 male to 2.1 females.



The victims ranged in age from 22-79 years; 73.5 percent were under 50 years of age.

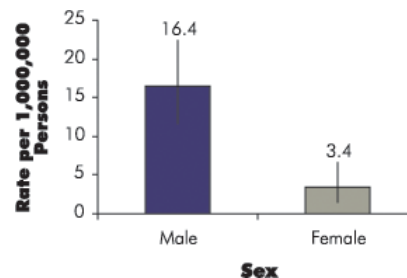


Hispanic/Latino adults accounted for 35.9 percent of victims; the Hispanic/Latino population in Utah is 8.2 percent.

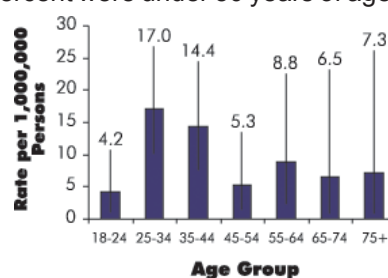


## Suspect Demographics

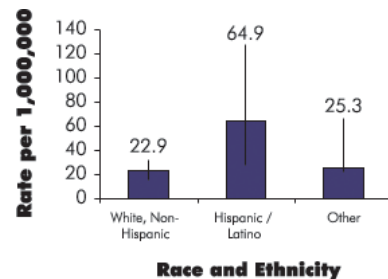
The rate for Utah suspects was 4.9 males to 1 female.



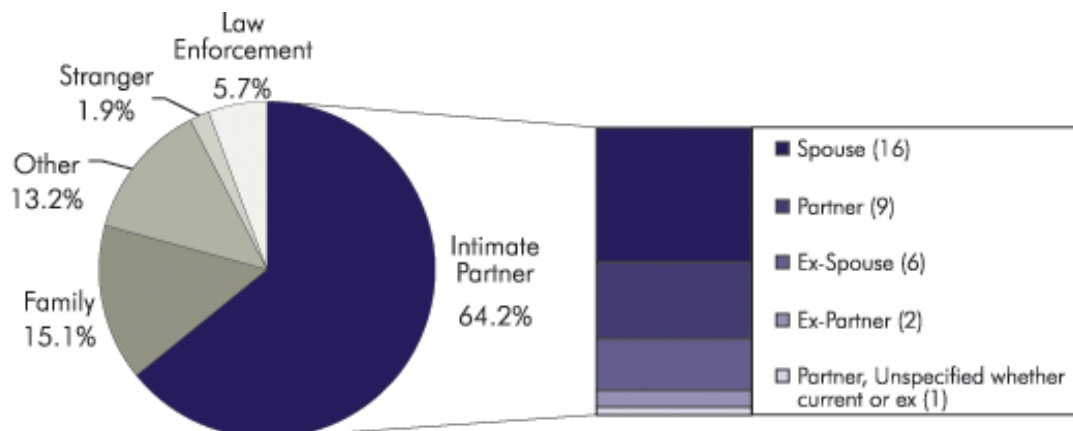
The suspects ranged in age from 20-78 years; 80.9 percent were under 50 years of age.



Hispanic/Latino adults accounted for 20 percent of suspects.



## Suspect Relationship to Victim



\*Other can include innocent bystander, etc.

### Suggested Citation:

Violence and Injury Prevention Program. Domestic Violence Fatalities in Utah 2000-2002. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Health 2005.